



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



"Suicide Attempts Increasingly Reported among Palestinians of Syria"

- Body of Palestinian Member of Pro-Regime Battalion in Syria Burned to Death
- Damascus Authorities: Yarmouk's Widely-Condemed Reconstruction Plan Under Examination
- Palestinian Refugee Khaled Mohamed AlShafe'i Forcibly Disappeared by Syrian Regime



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Latest Developments

11 years into the Syrian conflict, Palestinian refugees sheltered in the war-torn country continue to suffer multiple hardships. Scores of them sustained severe traumas.

A number of Palestinian refugees in/from Syria (PRS) committed suicide due to the psychological distress caused by years of relentless bombardment and protracted displacement.

Three conscripts at the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), affiliated with the Syrian regime, fatally shot themselves.

On December 19, 2013, 18-year-old Mazen AlAsli, a resident of Yarmouk Camp for Palestinian refugees, south of Damascus, killed himself due to the blockade and undernourishment.

A number of suicide attempts have also been recorded among Palestinian refugees who fled Syria to Lebanon, where they have been facing squalid humanitarian conditions.

Another former resident of Yarmouk Camp dropped from a fourth-floor balcony in Turkey in an apparent suicide attempt. The refugee, who has gone hemiplegic, said he failed to secure much-needed medical treatment to his disabled brother.

There exists no accurate data about the number of suicide attempts among the Palestinians of Syria. Such a phenomenon remains underreported for several reasons, most notable among which are



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fears of retaliation, distrust in law enforcement, and the absence of official documentation drives.

Along similar lines, Palestinian refugees have railed against the increasing deaths reported among conscripts at the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), a affiliated with the Syrian regime.

Recently, Palestinian refugee Shadi Khaled Sai'd, born in 2000, died after he fainted during military trainings in Adra city, in Rif Dimashq. He fell on a heater and his body burned to death.

The conscripts' families slammed the PLA leadership and chief commanders of dragging their relatives into deadly shootouts and unprepared military drills.

Earlier this year, dozens of Palestinian youths joined a new military training session by the PLA.

A number of buses with young men onboard were spotted in displacement camps across the war-torn country. The conscripts were transferred to Bassel AlAssad Institute for Military training in Mesyaf town.

The Syrian government forces continue to drag Palestinian refugees to mandatory military conscription, forcing dozens to become internally displaced and dozens more to seek refuge in other countries.

Those who refuse conscription are subjected to crackdowns, abductions and even executions. As a result, thousands fled the tension-stricken country in the hunt for a safer shelter.



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In another development, member of Damascus Executive Office, Samir Jazaerli, said the controversial rehabilitation plan of Yarmouk Camp has not been canceled and is being examined by the Syrian Council of Ministers.

He said that sometime earlier a quartet committee chaired by Damascus Governor saw the day after the Council of Ministers ruled for temporarily suspending the master plan. The quartet pledged to facilitate the return of Yarmouk residents to their houses regardless of the plan.

Jazaerli said return permits will be granted to residents of habitable houses, adding that 900 such demands have been approved by Damascus Governor.

A recent report issued by AGPS under the title “Yarmouk Camp: What’s Behind the New Reconstruction Plan” has spotlighted the projected impact of the new master plan issued by Damascus Governorate on June 06, 2020 to reconstruct Yarmouk Camp.

The report warns that the new plan violates the residents’ ownership rights and swells up over 50% of old buildings and property owned by civilians. No compensations, except for small shares, are, however, proposed in the plan.

The reconstruction plan will also result in a removal of the camp’s demographic character. No more than 40% of the residents will be allowed to return to their homes in mildly damaged areas. Several



families will not be able to prove property ownership due to such laws and regulations as Law 10, which allows the Syrian government to designate zones for redevelopment. The situation is even more complicated for those who lost their documents in the warfare as well as those currently sheltered abroad.

The report includes a historical overview about the establishment of Yarmouk Camp, the reconstruction initiatives, and the pre-war and post-war conditions of the camp.

In the meantime, Palestinian refugee Khaled Mohamed AlShafe'i has been secretly held in Syrian government prisons for the 10

consecutive year

Khaled, a resident of Jaramana Camp for Palestinian refugees, in Rif Dimashq, was arrested by Syrian security forces in mid-2011 and dragged to an unidentified destination.

AGPS documented the secret detention of 1,797 Palestinian refugees in state-run penal complexes across war-torn Syria, among them 110 women and girls.

AGPS also documented the death of over 550 Palestinian refugees under torture in Syrian government lock-ups, including women, children, and elderly civilians.

Affidavits by ex-detainees provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian detainees, in a flagrant violation



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of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).